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THE CITY OF NORWICH GAS & ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

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STONINGTON

Two Members of School Committee to be Elected Today—Sale of the Capron Property.

Prior to the recent annual town meeting when a vote was passed to reduce the membership of the school committee from six to three, each of the party caucuses nominated candidates for the committee. Lorenzo D. Fairbrother, republican, and Thomas W. Hickson, democrat. Both will be elected today, their names being on the official ballot. They will probably insist on serving for the term to which they will be elected. That would make the committee six members as heretofore. When the term of two committees expires next year, probably no successors will be nominated, and in 1918 only one candidate will be nominated. If the vote of the town in annual meeting is to be observed, therefore, it will be three years before the committee will be reduced to three from six members. This will be the plan unless some way is found to prevent the two to be elected today from qualifying, and a way to legislate one of the two holders out of office.

Stonington's Senator.

No matter which party is successful in the state election, the senator from the Stonington district will come from the town of Stonington. The republican candidate is Frank T. Hinckley, of the Mystic section and judge of the town court of Stonington, and the democratic nominee is Cornelius Cranford, for over fifteen years warden of the borough of Stonington.

Borough Briefs.

The Capron place in Water street has been purchased by Miss Sarah Sheffield from William L. Main. Lobster thievery seems to be a specialty in the borough, the crustaceans being taken from the wells of fishing vessels.

Real live black snakes have been seen of late in the borough streets by strict total abstainers, and three of the reptiles have been killed.

Two men make an imitation of silk from the hemp of New Zealand.

COLCHESTER

Borough Delegates at Norwich Conventions—Mrs. Mary Moses Going to Los Angeles—Vote on License Today.

C. A. Kramer, James Purcell, Timothy Kelley and Patrick Murray were in Norwich Saturday attending the democratic congressional and senatorial conventions.

Going to Los Angeles.

Mrs. Mary Moses, who has been visiting her brother, J. R. Backus on South Main street for several weeks, left Saturday for Hartford and will, after a short visit, leave for Los Angeles, Cal., where she will spend the winter with friends.

Services were held in the Episcopal chapel Sunday morning at 9 o'clock by Rev. Mr. Roosevelt of Hebron.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald K. Brown returned Saturday to their summer home on Broadway, after two weeks in the White Mountains.

Voting on License.

The election of town officers is being held today (Monday). The polls opened at 8.30 a. m. and will close at 3 p. m. The town is also voting on the license question.

John Higgins was the guest of relatives in Portland Saturday.

Teachers Return.

Miss Margaret Donovan, teacher of the fourth grade school in the Ransom school building, returned Saturday, after spending the vacation at the home in New Haven.

Miss Bessie Monahan, teacher in the Dublin school building, sixth grade, returned Friday from her home in Middletown.

A number from town went to Portland Saturday to attend the 75th anniversary celebration.

J. Frank Rogers of Salem was a week-end visitor in town.

Miss Lillian Johnson of Winsted will teach in one of the rooms in the Ransom school building.

Supervisor J. A. Young returned on Saturday from a short stay in New Haven.

MATTERS INTERESTING WESTERLY

Extra Pension of \$10 Per Month for Three Medal of Honor Men—No Campaign Banner Flying This Fall—New Manager for Babcock Properties.

There were three Rhode Islanders who served in Rhode Island regiments in the Civil War who will receive \$10 a month extra pensions for the remainder of their lives, because their names appear upon the army and navy medal honor roll, for brilliant service and extraordinary bravery while in action. There medal of honor men are James A. Barber of Westerly village, and Charles D. Ennis of the Potter Hill section and David Naylor, of Ashaway. Mr. Barber's occupation is that of a fisherman, but which he practically abandoned some three years ago by reason of the scarcity of fish and con-



JAMES A. BARBER

sequent unprofitableness of the business. He still owns the identical boat which he built soon after the close of the Civil War and he spends some of his time aboard his favorite craft, but rarely goes fishing. He is in the civic center of Westerly almost daily and at the present time he is a regular attendant at the superior court session during the trial of Engineer Charles H. Mansfield for manslaughter in connection with the railroad wreck at Bradford, as a very near relative was one of the five killed. He has followed the testimony carefully. Mr. Barber naturally takes pride in being on the roll of honor and his name was among the very first to be entered therein, some years after the close of the war. The law that provides for the additional pension of \$10 a month was passed by congress last April, and states that the name of each surviving person who has served in the military or naval service of the United States in any war and who has attained the age of sixty-five and has received a medal of honor for having "in action involving actual conflict with the enemy distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry or intrepidity at the risk of his own life, and has been the call of duty" shall be entitled to a place on this new roll of honor and to the additional pension.

Mr. Barber enlisted in November, 1861, as private in Company G, First Rhode Island Artillery, and was promoted to be corporal. He re-enlisted as a veteran volunteer in 1862. He was wounded and confined in hospital for two months. He was honorably discharged and mustered out of service June 24, 1865.

Eleven Civil War veterans now living in New England will receive this additional pension, besides the three in Rhode Island. They are: Wallace A. Bockwith and George Williams, of New London, Conn.; Andrew S. Bryant, of Springfield, Mass.; John F. Bickford, of Gloucester, Mass.; Walter G. Merrill, of Pittsfield, Mass.; Charles H. Pinkham, of Worcester, Mass.; John H. Boutwell, of Montpelier, Vt.; Charles G. Gould, of Cavendish, Vt.; Charles H. Rich, of Bennington, Vt.; David D. Stevens, of Peabody, Mass.; and Jackson Sargent, of Stowe, Vt.

Rhode Island will be well represented among the contestants in the first men's muster at the Brooklyn fair next Friday, and some of these veteran organizations expect to be among the winners. The prizes aggregate \$1,000, divided into 18 water offerings, therefore some of the Rhode Island machines ought to be among the winners in view of the good work they have done at other musters during the season. The machines that will go to Brooklyn from Rhode Island are: King Philip and Hydraulion of Bristol, Watchmocket of East Providence, Gaspee No. 1 of Providence, Hay Cart (formerly N. P. Dixon of Westerly) of Pawtucket, Fire King of Pawtucket, Volunteer of East Greenwich, Washington No. 1 of Wickford and Star No. 1 of Westerly.

The list of entries to date indicates that there will be nearly 40 contestants, included in the number being the following, in addition to those from Rhode Island: Union of East Brain-tree, White Angel of Salem, Alert of Winchendon, Veteran of Charlestown, Converse of Malden, Red Jacket of Cambridge, Komokomassett of Marblehead, Granite of Quincy, Defender of East Weymouth, Konolassett of Cohasset, Protector No. 3 of Brockton, Active of Weymouth, Hancock No. 1 of Brockton, Alabam Coon of Stoughton, Protection of Amesbury, Washington of Holbrook, Conqueror of South Weymouth, Hingham Vet. of Hingham, Enterprise of Campello, Live Oak No. 44 of Somerville, Germania No. 2 of Chelsea, and Protection No. 1 of Brookline.

In presidential years that have gone Westerly prided itself in being the first place in all New England to have a republican campaign banner bearing portraits of the candidates, the president and the vice president nominees, swing on high over Dixon square, a huge one, but up to date there is no Hughes banner in Westerly, and there is nothing doing along that line. Perhaps the newly elected town committee will have done what the preceding committee has left undone. The town committee of Westerly, the republican committee, as that is the only party of consequence in the town, is altogether different in its workings from perhaps any other committee anywhere. On account of the preponderance of republicans the committee is not required to raise any campaign fund, as there is no use for money in "elections here, is the call of duty" shall be entitled to a place on this new roll of honor and to the additional pension.

prepared the slates for caucus action, and the slates is presented openly and with deliberation. Those who opposed the slates were classed as bolters and not adherents to the principles of the party. This new committee will probably continue in the same routine, and there is interest in the action of the new committee in the party caucuses, especially by the Outs, who have been deposed from the committee. With changed conditions in management, will the alleged party principles cry hold good, or will the Outs become the bolters, or true blue party men, standing to the rack, fodder or no fodder?

Local Laconics.

The superior court will reconvene in Westerly at 10.30 this morning when the Mansfield trial will be resumed. Thus far the trial has been upon the infallibility of the railroad block system.

William A. Wilcox has succeeded the Industrial Trust company as manager of the Mattie P. Babcock property in Westerly, including the Barber Memorial building, in which Miss Babcock has a life interest.

A majority of the delegates from Westerly are opposed to the retention of George Benjamin Utter on the republican state central committee and will nominate whom they would like as his successor. Still the state convention may prefer Mr. Utter. Such moves have been made in politics.

THE VENICE OF MEXICO.

The Home of the Aztec Lake Dwellers a Place of Much Charm.

(Special to The Bulletin.)

Washington, D. C., Oct. 1.—When peace once more broods over Mexico and the "See America First" campaign is made to embrace the wonderful scenic beauties of the southern republic one of the most popular resorts for tourists will probably be "The Venice of the Valley," graphically described in a communication from Walter Hough to the National Geographic Society, a part of which is issued today in the following bulletin:

One of the pleasurable experiences among those that delight the traveler in Mexico is a visit to the home of the Aztec lake dwellers. Much of the charm of the great Valley of Mexico, where they live, is due to the stretches of water among the trees and verdant fields in a landscape framed in beautiful mountains and bathed with clearest air of heaven.

Their lakes—Texcoco, Xochimilco, Zumpango, and Chalco—do not reveal themselves except from the high mountains encircling the valley. They are shallow bodies of water in the midst of extensive marshes, unapproachable and lacking the effect of our lakes with their definite shorelines. For this reason they have never been highways of civilized commerce, nor has navigation flourished in their shallow waters; but they were from these very hindrances destined to be jealous mothers of ancient and remarkable States, whose people, protected in the fens, dug out canals and developed an indigenous commerce and transportation to the fullest extent.

Long before Cortez came the Indians of the valley worked in the boggy lake lands and dug canals hither and thither—main canals between the lakes and to the great city of Tenochtitlan and smaller canals between the fields. Through this maze of waterways, then as now, they sent their boats and in the fens built their thatched houses.

Pere Sahagun, the Franciscan, records that the City of Mexico is like another Venice and the people themselves are comparable to the Venetians in "urbanity and savoir." This was written in the 16th century, but in the lapse of several hundred years the city's wonderful water environment has become dry ground, and the seek for lake dwellers will have to look

farther afield in the entrancing valley of the sky.

"The way to the present Aztec Venice, which bears the name of Xochimilco, in the field of flowers" is through one of these ancient canals—a prehistoric water road from Tenochtitlan to the capital and seat of one of the group of seven Aztec tribes which long ago came from remote Aztlan to the rich valley of Mexico.

"The life on the canal vivid and picturesque, as is striking now as it was then; it may even be suspected that the change from that time to this has not been very great. It is hard to get a start to the end of the fens in more ways than one—the negotiations for passage in a barge with boatmen who display the characteristics of that tribe known the world over, and the conflicting claims also of all the costume incidents, shipping and so forth, of the boiling, squirming kaleidoscope canal and shore population on its multifarious quests bolder the beholder and make him forget that he is on a journey to see the lake dwellers in their primitive homes. Tardily, then the barge comes into the clear pool in front of the medieval toll-gate fortress, where all shipping must go under a low bridge and where the old-time toll collector armed with a pike, could threaten the reluctant visitor with a sword much effort.

"Beyond the gateway begin more vistas of a new world! On this canal, bordered with trees and spanned with quaint bridges, is a perfect stream of craft, from the slender dug-out chaloupe to the square-bowed flat-bottom, hurrying about everything to feed, repair, and adorn the great city. Freight is of all descriptions; but one looks curiously on the small bundles of grass and other green forage for animal feed, the pulque barrels, vegetables and flowers. The Indian boatmen, clad in white cotton shirt and trousers, are working with a will, sometimes wading in the canal and drawing the heavy-laden boats after them; and almost returning to the paradise, a woman piloting her husband who is the worse for pulque.

"Flotsam and jetsam in the canal are vagrant bulbs of water hyacinth, a wicked, beautiful plant, whose productivity makes men work to keep it down, but here it has met its match and is made to be useful for the Aztecs throw great masses of it upon a strip of bog to the thickness of a foot or more. The water hyacinth is provided with large cellular floats, a natural provision for its dissemination, which has made it an obstruction to navigation in some of our southern rivers.

"Upon this bed of state the natives spread a layer of mud, edged from the bottom of the canals. Perhaps before the plant floats have decayed these gardens may drift away should the water rise. Even now portions of the lake on square miles of vegetation cover the surface like the 'sudd' of the Nile, and the canal roads have to be staked at the sides to keep them from disappearing.

"The term 'floating gardens' was properly applied by the early historians of Mexico to masses of water weeds covered with a thin layer of soil, employed by the Mexicans at a period when the fluctuating waters prevented the formation of permanent chinampas, and so in the New World the Indians repeated the famed gardens of the lake of Cashmere.

"The Xochimilcos are expert gardeners and assiduous at their work. Most of their plants are started in seed beds from which they are transplanted to the chinampas, and it is strange to see boat loads of corn sprouts brought to be planted in this manner. Curiously enough, these morass gardens sometimes require irrigation, which is accomplished by throwing on water from the canal with a wooden scoop.

"It cannot be said that the Xochimilcan man has an open and ingenuitous countenance, but it shows force of character and lights up quickly in response to kindness and recognition. The young women have round, often ruddy, but rather expressionless

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faces; the children are pretty and the older women are better preserved than the women of the Pueblos of the southwestern United States. Both sexes work hard, and where there is such uniformity of poverty the struggle for existence makes life a serious matter and engraves deep lines in the faces of the breadwinners.

"Thus a birth is heralded with mourning and rejoicing. 'What will be their fortune when their swamps are drained and their old lake dweller life merged into the humdrum of farmers? If by good fortune they are kept from the deadly effects of alcohol, the chief moloch of the Mexican Indian, no doubt they will live happily on the dry lake bottom, as before the days of Montezuma.'

BRIEF STATE NEWS

Meriden—A decrease of \$8,917.19 has been made in the town debt according to the town reports just filed for printing. The bonded indebtedness of the town is now \$805,000.

Litchfield—Announcement has been made that the marriage of Robert Myles, who spent a summer in Litchfield recently, and Miss Greer, granddaughter of Bishop Greer, will be on Nov. 9.

Addison—A son was born last week to Mr. and Mrs. William Rath of Addison. The child is the fifth genera-

tion living, on the mother's side. The oldest one is living in Hungary. The mother's maiden name was Anna Vais.

Bridgeport—Four suits for \$4,700 and trouble damages as allowed by the statutes, have been brought against George W. Sherwood of Bridgeport, as a result of an automobile collision in Westport, Aug. 18, last. The actions were filed the other day in the superior court.


Wareham Point—The spread of infantile paralysis has caused an order to be issued by the managers of the Hartford County Temporary Home at Wareham Point that no children will be taken into the home until there is no longer any doubt that the plague is likely to be carried.

Litchfield—The library at Litchfield has recently permitted to be placed upon its shelves the nucleus of a little collection of books owned by the Litchfield Garden Club, which books it is hoped will soon be installed. These books have been presented by the Garden Club Library committee.


Middletown—James Fyvie, of No. 163 Main street has been notified by his lawyer in New York that his share of estates in Aberdeen and Boxhorn, Scotland, amounts to \$28,000, as follows: \$8,000 from the old homestead in Aberdeen, which is to be sold, and \$20,000 from granite quarries in Boxhorn.

The Useful Man.

A man who admits that he doesn't know much probably is the kind who will eventually learn a great deal and be very useful.—Atchison Globe.



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